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**Patent claims**

1. Method for searching a database on a disk storage medium,  
5 characterized by
  - execution of a first search step which is used to scan the entire database on the disk storage medium,
  - provision of an intermediate result from the first search step,
  - execution of a second search step in the intermediate result from the first search step, and
  - provision of an end result from the second search step.
2. Method according to Claim 1, where the processing speed for the data in the first search step is at least as high as the read-in speed for the data.  
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3. Method according to Claim 1 or 2, where only a text search is performed in the first search step.
4. Method according to one of the preceding claims,  
25 where the first search step involves skipping to search locations from an index list in descending or ascending order on the basis of sorting exclusively according to sector numbers.
- 30 5. Method according to one of the preceding claims, where the intermediate result comprises one or more subresults which are respectively searched in the second search step.
- 35 6. Method according to one of the preceding claims, where the database is dynamic and is available in fragmented form and in this context the individual

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fragments are read in successively and a read head skips exclusively in one direction between the fragments.

- 5 7. Method according to one of the preceding claims, where the data are stored on the disk storage medium in ECC blocks.
- 10 8. Method according to one of the preceding claims, where the disk storage medium is an optical disk.
- 15 9. Apparatus for searching a database on a disk storage medium, characterized by
  - a search device for executing a first search step which can be used to scan the entire database on the disk storage medium, and
  - a memory device for storing and providing an intermediate result from the first search step,
- 20 25 where
  - the search device is also designed to execute a second search step in the intermediate result from the first search step and to provide an end result from the second search step.
- 30 10. Apparatus according to Claim 9, where the processing speed for the data in the search device in the first search step is at least as high as the maximum or an instantaneous read-in speed for the data into the search device.
11. Apparatus according to Claim 9 or 10, where an exclusive text search can be performed in the search device during the first search step.
- 35 12. Apparatus according to one of Claims 9 to 11, where the first search step may involve the search

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device skipping to search locations from an index list in descending or ascending order on the basis of sorting exclusively according to sector numbers.

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13. Apparatus according to one of Claims 9 to 12, where the intermediate result which can be stored in the memory device comprises one or more subresults which can be searched by the search 10 device in the second search step.

14. Apparatus according to one of Claims 9 to 13, where the database is dynamic and is available in fragmented form and in this context the individual 15 fragments can be read into the search device successively and a read head can skip exclusively in one direction between the fragments.

15. Apparatus according to one of Claims 9 to 14, 20 where the search device and the memory device are suitable for processing ECC blocks.

16. Apparatus according to one of Claims 9 to 15, where the disk storage medium is an optical disk.